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Heavy battles rage in Eritrea

HAIRO, March 5 (R). — An Eritrean guerrilla leader today said heavy battles were raging at a besieged Ethiopian garrison town on a strategic road in Eritrea. Guerrilla leader Ahmad Nassir said the town was El-Asrak, about 65 kms north of the Eritrean capital of Asmara and on the road to Sudan. He told Reuters 800 Ethiopian troops had been encircled for two weeks by guerrillas now numbering at least 1,200 in an offensive begun on Jan. 31. Mr. Nassir is head of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Revolutionary Council (ELF-C). He said there were daily mortar exchanges and fierce hand-to-hand combat for control of Elbarat, where the Ethiopians refused to surrender.

Soviet Jews prophesy trials

MOSCOW, March 5 (R). — Soviet Jewish dissident leaders said tonight allegations in the official press that some of them were paid American agents were "crude and slanderous inventions" which could herald Stalinist-type trials. The U.S. embassy in Moscow also said a change in the newspaper Izvestia that some of its diplomats had recruited dissidents to work for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was "farcical". The Jewish statement tonight said the activists would refuse to take any active part in "frame-up trials like those staged by Stalin in the 1930s" which it said, now could be in the offing. The Jewish statement was telephoned to Western journalists by Dr. Vladimir Slepak.

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Arab ministers agree to boost aid to Africa

CAIRO, March 5 (Agencies). — Foreign ministers preparing next Monday's Afro-summit agreed today on a paper to increase economic assistance to 16 states, an Arab League spokesman said. The ministers, ending 12 days of talks yesterday and had not fixed any figures, he added. The paper was to be handed to the African side tonight and might be discussed at an early session of the two later tonight, the spokesman said. Arab sources said agreement had been reached to increase the capital various Arab

and African institutions providing loans. The source said this would be in addition to encouraging investment of Arab private capital in African countries, as well as encouraging feasibility studies and infrastructure. The source said: "We are striving to increase economic assistance to African states, but under no condition do we accept either bargaining or being tied down to certain amounts of money. We are trying to make agreements on principles only." He said Tanzania had proposed aid totalling \$2 billion but this had been turned down. Mauritania Foreign Minister Ould Moukknass told reporters the aid would pass through the usual channels. These included the Khartoum-based Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa with a capital of \$465 million, the Abidjan-based African Development Bank with a capital of about \$960 million dollars, and the Cairo-based Arab Fund for Technical Aid to Arab and African Countries with a capital of \$25 million.

Iran flies to London to join King

CAIRO (Agencies). — Prime Minister Mudar Badran and members of the Royal Cabinet Shadi Hamid Sharaf left Saturday for London to meet His Majesty King Hussein, as has been reported for the first time. Mr. Badran will accompany the king when he leaves for Cairo and the Afro-Arab summit in Cairo Monday. Members of the delegation include State Minister Hassan Ibrahim and Assistant Secretary of State Maj. Gen. Hadi Al Majall.

Mr. Ould Moukknass said the Arab aid would finance, among other things, telecommunications and the setting up of an African data bank. He refused to state the amount of the Arab aid, but said the overall — bilateral and multilateral — figure could be higher than that advanced by the Africans themselves. Libya was reported earlier to have told fellow Arab states that it was committed to help African states directly through bilateral agreements and would not channel any assistance through Arab funds. It was not immediately clear whether there had been any change in that attitude.

Pakistani army put on standby after pre-election violence

ISLAMABAD, March 5 (R). — The Pakistani government today ordered the army to stand by in case of violence during general elections next Monday, military officials said. A precautionary alert was the sources said, a troops would be called to the streets only if there is widespread disorder the civil authorities control. Troops moved into the federal capital of Islamabad today, only to ensure full protection for the diplomatic community. The capital has remained free of violence throughout the eight-day election campaign, but clashes occurred in the outlying city of Rawalpindi. Pakistani opposition leaders were injured after a march in the Rawalpindi

election office of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Four people, including a policeman, were injured. Two PPP supporters suffered knife wounds in other election fights elsewhere in the city. Karachi, an opposition stronghold, has seen some of the worst clashes in the eight-week election campaign. Two people were killed and 60 injured in an upsurge of violence there last Sunday and Monday. The president of the PNA, Maulana Mufi Mahmud, meanwhile called for the army to supervise polling so the people could vote without harassment. In Lahore, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto today delivered a stern warning that the government would quickly crush any attempt to disturb the election.

Rejection Front denounce peace moves

BAHGA, March 5 (R). — Iraq's Baath Party and the Pan-Arab Rejection Front today denounced steps taken by the Arab governments towards settlements in the Middle East. Baghdad Radio reported a statement issued after the two sides in the apparently referred to confrontation states — Jordan and Syria — and Arabia which United Nations Secretary of State Cyrus Vance visited last month. The statement said the Rejection Front was "dragging the Arab side along in an attempt to reach an explicit recognition of the Zionist entity, or holding negotiations with it."

Smith plans cabinet reshuffle; rebels should quit party, he says

SALISBURY, March 6 (AFP). — Premier Ian Smith is planning a minor cabinet reshuffle early next week, when he will probably also announce changes to the military overall command structure. In an interview with the Sunday Mail published today (Sunday), Mr. Smith said he might announce cabinet changes next week, he also hinted at changes to the Joint Operations Command (JOC) defence command system. He was expected to announce the appointment of a supreme commander to replace the JOC system, which has been criticised for being clumsy and slow in decision-making in conducting the anti-guerrilla war. The defence portfolio is vacant with the resignation last month of Reginald Cowper. The junior minister post in the prime minister's office was also vacated this week by Ted Sutton-Pryce, who joined a Rhodesian Front Party revolt with 11 other dissidents against the government's plans to begin removing the country's race laws.

Carter: Middle East leaders want to scale down arms purchases

WASHINGTON, March 5 (R). — Israeli and Arab leaders today said Secretary of State Cyrus Vance last month they wanted to scale down the Middle East arms race and buy fewer American weapons, President Carter disclosed in an interview published today. The president also said he planned a major foreign policy speech at the United Nations this month. Other points in the interview included an expression of shock at secret leaks of information from Washington and a statement that he intended to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil by shifting to the use of coal as an energy source. On arms, Mr. Carter said the views of Middle East countries coincided with his own hopes of reducing U.S. weapons sales worth billions of dollars each year.

freedom of the press and no official secrets act. "How can you maintain a democracy, truthfulness and frankness with American people on the one hand, and on the other hand preserve a mandatory degree of confidentiality about intelligence sources?" he asked. The president predicted that the cost of fuel for Americans would rise faster than the inflation rate, now running at about six per cent a year. But he said the national energy policy he planned to send to Congress on April 20 would do all it could to limit the increases. He also said his energy programme would call for mandatory conservation measures, including compulsory insulating standards for homes.

He had a "favourable response" from the Soviet Union, France, West Germany and Britain when he got in touch about their joining the U.S. in cutting down arms sales. "It is hard for (Middle East) countries... unilaterally to stop buying weapons," Mr. Carter said. But in talks with Mr. Vance during his Middle East trip last month "every one of them unilaterally said they would like to stop."

Mr. Carter discussed arms sales and other issues during a question and answer session with 22 American newspaper editors at the White House yesterday. The transcript was released before a two-hour broadcast talk from the White House this afternoon.

The president expressed shock at what he said was the scope of leaks of secret information he found when he entered the White House in January. Mr. Carter made clear he was struggling with a dilemma in a country which has complete

Gaza city council cables Carter on Israeli settlements

TEL AVIV, March 5 (R). — The city council in the occupied town of Gaza called on President Jimmy Carter today to discuss Israeli settlement policy in the occupied areas in his talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin next week in Washington. Mr. Rabin leaves tomorrow for a week-long visit to the U.S. during which he will meet the president. Vice President Walter Mondale and other American leaders, and will address both houses of Congress. A spokesman announced that in his cable to President Carter the Gaza council said the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied areas "only hurts the chances of reaching a Middle East peace."

Israel permits limited settlement in areas captured in the 1967 war that are deemed "essential to national defence."

Assad: Arab unity is our preoccupation

DAMASCUS, March 5 (R). — President Hafez Assad said tonight the recovery of Israeli-occupied Arab territories and Palestinian rights remained Syria's major strategic objective. He also said "Arab unity must remain our main preoccupation and the most important objective for which we work and towards which we should realise every step."

Addressing the inaugural session of the Syrian Student Union's Seventh Conference at Damascus University, President Assad said: "We shall not hesitate to realise any unionist step with every brotherly state that is prepared for it. The removal of the Israeli occupation of our territories and recovery of the Palestinian people's rights will remain our major strategic objective at this historic juncture."

President Assad noted the development of Syrian ties with Jordan and Egypt, and added "We also achieved a new unionist step three days ago in the proclamation signed in Khartoum for Sudan's accession to the Unified political command of Egypt and Syria."

In impromptu remarks after reading his prepared speech, the president said Syria had achieved remarkable results by putting an end to fighting in Lebanon. Syrian assistance had been able "to stop the fighting, foil the conspiracy with its major dimensions, prevent partition and stop the emigration of Lebanese and Palestinians in Lebanon," he said. President Assad said Syria's intervention in Lebanon had enabled it to prevent "liquidation of the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon, which was to be undertaken by Israel directly

Romania hardest hit Severe central European earthquake leaves trail of death and destruction

BUCHAREST, March 5 (Agencies). — Thousands of people were today feared dead after a severe earthquake last night which reduced parts of Bucharest and other southern Romanian cities to rubble. The known toll was at least 400 deaths, a government official said, adding that "the numbers are conservative."

As rescue squads clawed at the rubble of homes, restaurants and factories, well-informed sources said there were fears the final death toll was likely to be several thousand. "The casualty figures will go up a lot more once we get into these buildings," said a weary army officer at one wrecked apartment block where troops were digging away the debris. The government official, designated to liaise with foreign correspondents, said nearly 300 corpses had been taken from the rubble in this capital city of 1.4 million people — one of the worst-hit areas.

The official said Bucharest hospitals had treated 1,773 people, about 1,200 of them seriously injured. Outside the capital, mostly in southern Romania, 72 bodies had been recovered so far and 614 people were reported injured. In Bucharest, southern suburbs appeared to be the worst hit. Entire houses and blocks of flats collapsed into the streets, or crushed buildings nearby.

Across the border in Bulgaria, 20 people were killed and 164 injured in the same quake, according to the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug quoting an official statement in Sofia. The earthquake, centred in the Transylvania region north of Bucharest, measured 7.2 on the Richter scale. The earthquake ripped along a traditional fault in the earth's crust in central Europe, shaking buildings as far north as Moscow and as far south as Naples, but deaths were apparently limited to Romania and Bulgaria.

Experts at the Serbian Geophysical Institute in Belgrade said the quake was centred about 10 kms beneath the surface of the earth, which reduced its potentially devastating effects. The energy unleashed was the equivalent of a dozen Hiroshima bombs, the institute estimated. The Romanian government declared a national emergency and President Nicolae Ceausescu hurried home from a visit to Nigeria to assess the scale of the disaster and supervise relief work. In Bucharest, thousands of buildings were reduced to skeletons. Families, including old men and children, were seen rummaging through the wreckage, seeking what remained of their belongings. Many of the homeless, still completely stunned, huddled in

groups scarcely speaking. One small child was sitting on the pavement, using a cooking pot as an improvised toilet. Bucharest Radio said that hospital patients who could be treated elsewhere were being moved to make beds available for the quake victims.

Traveling through southern Romania, Reuter correspondent Michael Lockley saw a trail of destruction in all the major towns. Apart from houses, many factories, big new office blocks, schools and hospitals were either partly or completely wrecked, with gaping holes and massive cracks in their walls. The damage seemed particularly severe in the southern industrial city of Craiova, where police and thousands of troops were trying to clear the chaotic streets of vast mounds of bricks and stones.

In Bucharest, huge stone-faced buildings were crisis-cracked with cracks and fissures. One major hotel, the Palas in the city centre, said it could not take guests because it was not sure whether the structure was safe enough. Traffic was in a state of near-chaos today because road bridges were considered unsafe for vehicles. Authorities were planning to set up special emergency centres for the homeless. They were taken completely unaware by the devastating tremor.

According to Bucharest Radio, the quake affected a huge

crescent-shaped swathe of territory in eastern and southern Romania more than 500 kms. long. The town of Dimbovitza, 75 kms. north of Bucharest, was singled out as having suffered loss of life and material damage, although no details were given.

The radio also said 300 oil wells were damaged, an indication of the economic dislocation caused by the quake.

The Ploesti oilfields, the biggest in East Europe outside the Soviet Union, are close to the earthquake epicentre. One eyewitness present during the earthquake said several fires had broken out in the capital. Later Bucharest Radio said gas supplies were being shut off temporarily because of the fire risk.

Other public services such as electricity and water which had been disrupted by the tremors were restored this morning, although people were urged not to drink the water because of possible contamination. Later it was announced that water would be rationed. Schools were closed and turned into mobile hospitals. The radio said that in order to shelter the homeless, new apartment blocks not yet occupied would be opened.

There were no reports of foreigners among the casualties, although several embassies and accommodation used by foreigners were damaged.

In a radio interview an Austrian diplomat said he felt the embassy twisting around "as if it had been slapped by a large hand." But the building was not seriously damaged. The Jordanian Embassy in Bucharest was slightly damaged by last night's quake, the Jordanian Foreign Minister in Amman said today.

It quoted a cable from the embassy in the Romanian capital as saying that all Jordanians there were safe but the embassy building was slightly damaged. The wife of a Belgian journalist who left Romania today said in Frankfurt that she and her husband were in a restaurant when the earthquake struck at 9:24 p.m. "I know it was exactly that time because all the clocks stopped," she said.

She said she had seen at least one Romanian woman trampled by a crowd which raced into the streets immediately after the tremor. A Belgian student, Mr. Leon Jeurissen, said he had seen a cinema in central Bucharest completely crushed by the weight of the upper floors of the building. Mr. Jeurissen, speaking by telephone to Prague from the Belgian Embassy, said the cinema, which was showing the American film *Virus*, was probably full when the earthquake struck.

Salam says Israel occupying south Lebanon presents note to Security Council members on Geneva attendance

BEIRUT, March 5 (R). — Lebanon has presented the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union and China — with notes requesting that Lebanon participate in the Middle East peace conference in Geneva, Radio Beirut reported. It said the messages were given to representatives here of the five countries. Earlier this week, Foreign Minister Fuad Butros told a joint meeting of the parliamentary foreign and defence committees that Lebanon wanted to take part in the Geneva conference, which has been stalled for over three years.

Mr. Saeb Salam, a former Lebanese Prime Minister, told the Kuwaiti daily newspaper Al Qabas that south Lebanon had been added to Israeli-occupied Arab territories. "The situation in the south is very dangerous. It is dangerous because it concerns the Israelis' infiltration of the south

and the possible new repercussions of this on the former (Lebanese) warring sides," he said in an interview with the paper published today. "The danger in south Lebanon now is that Israel has occupied part of this territory, just as it occupied by force part of Egyptian and Syrian territory," he added.

He expressed "regret that our Arab brothers do not realise that calling for an end to occupation does not only mean Sinai, the West Bank and the Golan but should include Israeli withdrawal from the occupied parts of south Lebanon."

Mr. Salam said that in the other cases Arab regions were occupied by force of arms, "but here they have been occupied peacefully through wicked infiltration. It is an occupation which I wish our Arab brothers would be aware is a fact."

He added that the Israelis freely entered Lebanese villages, recruited labourers, sold their goods, agricultural products

and operated transport vehicles between Israel and some Lebanese villages. "It is occupation in the full sense of the word and whoever denies this denies that the sun rises every day," the former premier said. Diplomatic sources in the Lebanese capital said today that local political leaders in southern Lebanon are seeking a truce between conservative Lebanese forces and Palestinian commandos confronting each other near the Israeli border. The well-informed Beirut daily Al Nahar said U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker on Thursday for American pressure on Israel for the same purpose.

Mr. Parker saw the president again today, but the U.S. and Kuwaiti embassies declined to comment on the report. Reports from the south say it has been calm in the Bint Jubail sector in the past few days but in the Marjayoun district there was still shelling yesterday. An important part in the efforts to arrange a ceasefire is being played by two southern deputies, Mr. Abdul Latif Zein and Ali Al Khalil who have conferred over the past few days with Palestinian and right-wing Lebanese leaders. After meeting them yesterday, Phalangist Party leader Pierre Gemayel said it was important "that we cease to trade accusations and ascribe to each other the responsibility for the situation in the south."

The two southern deputies added that in their view only Israel was responsible, according to press reports here. The conservative Beirut daily Al Anwar, commenting on the situation today, said Lebanese sovereignty in the south could not be relinquished to the commandos, and Israel must be forced to respect this sovereignty.

Spain allows workers to strike, promises political amnesty soon

MADRID, March 5 (R). — The Spanish government today granted workers the right to strike and promised that an amnesty would soon be proclaimed — two moves aimed at normalising the political situation before this year's promised general elections. By granting the right to strike, for the first time since the end of the 1936-1939 Spanish civil war, the government appeared to be seeking the support of the still illegal leftwing trade unions for a planned set of austerity measures that could include wage restraints. Labour Minister Alvaro Renjifo laid part of the blame for the country's present economic difficulties on Gen. Franco's tough labour policies. Under the late dictator, riot police were used to break up strikes and the state-controlled Trade Union Organisation negotiated wage deals.

Speaking on television, the minister said this system was partly responsible for Spain's present inflation rate — estimated at about 20 per cent — and the growing number of jobless, now more than 4 per cent of the work force. The other important measure agreed on during last night's government meeting was that the terms of an amnesty for political crimes would be announced after next week's cabinet session. It seems highly unlikely, however, that King Juan Carlos will grant a general political amnesty, since this would cover the 100 or more extreme leftwingers held in connection with the recent killings of policemen and the kidnapping of senior officials. For internal political reasons, extreme rightwingers arrested after the discovery of an illegal arms factory in Madrid last month also seem unlikely to benefit from a royal pardon. More than 100 of the political prisoners now in Spanish jails are Basque nationalists and thousands of Basques have been involved in pro-amnesty demonstrations this week.

A government statement said the amnesty was prompted by a desire to secure peace for all Spaniards along the lines of the plan for political reforms overwhelmingly approved in the Dec. 15 referendum last year. The proclamation of a general political amnesty was one of the guarantees the opposition had demanded to ensure that the elections promised in the referendum would be free and democratic. But the special relevance of the amnesty to the Basques was emphasised by the fact that the government also agreed to give the two most militant Basque provinces local "justas" — assemblies of local notables. Although these will have only limited powers, their establishment is seen at least as a symbolic concession to the Basque claims for regional autonomy. Another guarantee which the opposition is insisting on before the elections is the legalisation of all political parties, including the Communists.

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Ding-dong, ding-dong, says 'freedom's bell'

Dr. David Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, has come out strongly in support of the new American initiative on "human rights" for all people throughout the world. He has stressed the point that Britain will push for the rights of people in every corner of the globe, and has left no doubt about the fact that its commitment to "human rights" is universal and deep. We are of course pleased by the fact that the new commitment to the human rights issue is apparently gaining the support of the major nations of the free industrial world, or the Western Democracies as they are conveniently known.

The Western Democracies, however, will find that being the emancipator of the entire world is no easier than being the policeman of that same world. But they are brave people for trying, and we wish them lots of luck.

We are particularly pleased about the emerging tandem of U.S.-U.K. consensus on the human rights issue, because we see in this lively duo the personification of both the best and worst in the advocacy, application and denial of these human rights that have become so fashionable since Jan. 20. We are not immediately concerned about whether Russian or East European or Chilean or Korean citizens live the lives of free people or slaves, because we have enough problems trying to rid our own Arab lands of the bondage that has been imposed in Palestine by the actions of Zionism.

Where it comes to "human rights" in Palestine, the British first showed the world in the 20s, 30s and 40s how to consistently ignore the full and basic rights of the Palestinian Arabs, and the Americans have since taken up the task of perpetuating the denial of Palestinian rights and the prolongation of Zionist conquest.

If Dr. Owen is serious about pressing for human rights in every corner of the globe, we trust that he and his colleagues in the Western Democracies will start pressing for the rights of the Palestinians in this corner of the globe. Or are the Palestinians not "human" because the Israelis say so? And have the Western Democracies pondered whether they have denied their own "human right" of speaking the truth without having that truth mangled by the macabre currents of Zionist exclusivity?

It seems to us that freedom begins at home. When Mr. Vance and Dr. Owen free themselves from the constraints and chains of Israel, then they can go around trying to spread liberty in the rest of the world. Only free men can make others free.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Three Jordanian dailies dealt with different subjects in their Saturday editorials. While AL RAJ commented on the Afro-Arab summit meeting, AL DUSTOUR discussed the Lebanese conflict and its effect on the proposed Arab summit meeting to be held in Cairo on Monday. As for AL SHA'B, it commented on the U.S. foreign aid programme for the coming year.

AL RAJ says that the African-Arab summit meeting in Cairo next week is an experiment that should succeed and adds that African-Arab relations should be built on strong foundations. The sum of 1 billion dollars requested by the Africans to finance the African Arab Development Fund should not be considered as a donation. The African countries should submit comprehensive development plans to be financed by the fund to avoid more inflation as the Arab money is being invested, the paper said. The Arabs and Africans should also work out a system to protect the price of their raw materials, as was done by the OPEC for oil. There is urgent need for the creation of African-Arab organizations to control African-Arab raw materials and market them in order to guarantee the interests of both parties, the paper added. We have no doubts of the success of the political moves undertaken by the Arabs and Africans to oppose Zionism and racism, the paper concludes. But what we want to be reassured of is the efficacy of their unified economic action.

AL DUSTOUR under the heading "The Arabs Summit Conference and the Lebanese Conflict" says that the summit conference which will surely convene in the coming days, has on its agenda a number of important subjects for discussion. Lebanese conflict, with its

many ramifications will figure among the most important. However, the crisis in south Lebanon in particular, and its effects on security in the region should be solved as quickly as possible and contained to enable Arab leaders to deal immediately with a more important issue, namely, the Arab Israeli conflict, and draw up unified strategies to serve as guidelines for the Geneva Middle East peace conference. Solving the Lebanese crisis, particularly that of south Lebanon, requires a sense of responsibility by all Arab leaders who should put national considerations above all other considerations. It is not right, the paper adds, that the Lebanese conflict swallow up the majority of Arab efforts while effort is urgently needed to solve our national problem, particularly since the solutions, are far from being easy and bounded by many dangers.

AL SHA'B says that the sum allocated to Israel in the U.S. foreign aid programme is a sure indicator of the biased policy taken by the U.S. toward Israel. This U.S. policy has in the past and still is the major factor which encourages Israel to keep adopting a hard line and refuse peace negotiations while continuing its aggressions. We do not say this to dampen the enthusiasm of those who are advocating the good intentions of the U.S. toward the Arabs, the paper says. But we say it to remind ourselves that only Arab military power can stand in the face of the enemy and that there doesn't exist a substitute for it. Peace in the area will not come about by our adopting a conciliatory attitude toward the U.S. But it could be achieved by activating Arab potentials to influence U.S. policy rather than be influenced by theirs, the paper concludes.

CHINA TAKES UP HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE TO ATTACK SOVIET "MENTAL" HOMES

HONG KONG, March 5 (AFP). — Soviet hopes of an accommodation or even friendship with People's China following Mao Tse-Tung's death last September have already been severely jolted, and the Chinese official press has followed up on previous scathing articles by charging that the Russians' system of putting dissenters in mental homes is even worse than Hitler's tactics. Since the Stalinist Era, the China of Mao Tse-Tung had charged that the Soviets were "betraying" the Marxist-Leninist cause, calling them "revisionists" — and much worse.

But after Mao died last year and Hua Kuo-Feng took over as Communist Party Chairman having foiled what was said to be an abortive coup by Mao's widow and three other top leaders, it appeared to western observers that Soviet Party Chief Leonid Brezhnev believed he could come to terms with the new, and apparently unsteady, Chinese leadership. How wrong this turned out to be.

Since the downfall of the "gang of four", China's newspapers and the official New China News Agency (NCNA) have been conducting a dual campaign against the "gang" — described as "radicals" in the Western press and as "one hundred per cent rightists" by the Chinese "revisionists".

While there have been milder harsh attacks on the Soviet system in recent months, few surpassed the one which charged that the "crude" suppression of Soviet dissenters "far surpasses that in Hitler's concentration camps and prisons". The NCNA said in an article bylined "sinhua (New China) correspondent" "To intensify the fascist dictatorship, the Brezhnev renegade clique makes use of 'mental homes' as an instrument for oppressing the Soviet people".

Among those suppressed by being placed in mental homes, the agency said, were those who were "branded revolutionaries and dissenters who are disoriented with and resist the counter-revolutionary rule". These people are regarded by the Soviet authorities as "mental cases", NCNA stated.

The NCNA article, which could wreck any hopes of a Sino-Soviet detente in the years to come, included a personal attack on the top Soviet leader (it said most mental institutions had been "established" after Brezhnev came into power) and many mental homes are "directly controlled" by the K.G.B. (the Soviet Committee for State Security).

Driving home its attack, the Chinese agency said that "to make use of 'mental homes' as a tool for oppressing the Soviet people is an iron-clad proof that the Soviet revisionist, renegade clique is going further and further down the road of Fascitization and a manifestation of the outward ferocity and inward weakness of this clique".

Over the past year or so, the Chinese have openly been warning Western countries about the possibility of a Soviet attack, Soviet and other Eastern Bloc ambassadors have walked out of banquets due to ferocious Chinese attacks, and the conclusion of a Sino-Japanese peace and friendship treaty is currently stalled due to Chinese insistence of a clause against "hegemony", which the Japanese apparently regard as a provocation toward the U.S.S.R.

Certain observers in Hong Kong today said it looked as though China was giving open backing to Soviet dissenters. The NCNA commentary stated, concerning them, that "fearing that the defendants were able to expose and accuse openly the authorities of

crimes if they were brought to an open trial, the Soviet authorities declared those dangerous elements" in their eyes as "maniacs" and put them into "mental homes" to suppress them secretly".

New China quoted Western reports that "thousands upon thousands of people" were being sent to the "mental homes" which were "prisons in disguise".

Such people included "revolutionaries who call for the overthrow of the Soviet revisionists' rule, dissenters who are against national oppression and uphold the defence of human rights, and ordinary people who are against the aggression and expansion committed by the Soviet revisionist renegade clique abroad".

New Chins even went so far as to support the "Prague spring" uprising by recalling a "well-known demonstration against the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia", a demonstration held in Moscow's Red Square in August 1968.

The agency said seven people were arrested "when the demonstrators held aloft banners with the slogans 'long live free and independent Czechoslovakia' and 'shame to the occupiers'".

Among those arrested, some were sent into exile while others were thrown into concentration camps or mental homes, New China asserted.

It quoted the case of artist Viktor Faiberg who was sent to a psychiatric hospital and told "your ailment is your disident way of thinking".

The article charged that people who work in mental homes where political prisoners are kept "are picked by Soviet special agent organisations, senior and junior medical personnel have military ranks and wear uniforms".

The official Chinese agency went on to state that "medical treatments are really tortures".

Given such statements, is it really possible to think that Sino-Soviet detente can be accomplished in the near future?

Oil states push for a stronger Egypt

KUWAIT, (CSM). — As U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance rapidly sounded out Mideast leaders in the capitals on Arab-Israeli peace prospects, the wealthy oil states of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were preparing new action to help Egypt out of its deepening economic difficulties.

The reasoning behind this is simple: "We have to help Egypt because a strong Egypt is the key to a lasting peace settlement with Israel. Without a strong Egypt, there can be no real peace, and the only alternative to President Sadat for Egypt seems to be communism." This is in fact how one Saudi leader put it.

Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Ahmad Jaber Al Sabah joined Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Ibn Faisal and other top Kuwaiti and Saudi officials for talks with President Sadat in Cairo Feb. 16 to work out the rescue operation for Egypt's economy. "We must help Egypt," said

Kuwait Foreign Undersecretary Rashid Al Rashid in an interview here. "We must do this not only for the sake of peace and the self-interest of the Arabs, but because we are committed to foreign aid as an ethical issue. You cannot calculate these matters only in black and white, in terms of the bottom line on an accounting sheet. It is a matter of human solidarity."

Both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, like the United Arab Emirates, give well over 10 per cent of their multi-billion-dollar petrodollar revenues in foreign aid.

The Gulf Organisation for the Development of Egypt (GODE), formed last spring, allotted 2 billion dollars to rescue the Egyptian economy, the breakdown on which led to price riots in Egypt last Jan. 18 to 20.

Egypt asked GODE last spring for much more: up to 12 billion dollars. "The problem with Egypt," said Saudi Deputy Finance Minister Mansour Al Turki in a conversation with

this reporter in Riyadh, "is that they cannot seem to put together a serious plan to use the aid. They did not realise that GODE could use the 2 billion dollars to work for them in various ways, such as issuing bonds and thereby raising as much of the 12 billion dollars they want."

Mr. Turki, who has attended many of the meetings with the Egyptians, heads a mixed Saudi-Egyptian company. "We keep asking them," he said, "to draw up projects so that we can get started helping them. We formed a six-man Arab League committee to see how we could remove the obstacles to helping them successfully."

President Sadat's government was urged both by its Arab friends and by the International Monetary Fund to phase out price subsidies and other burdens on Egypt's budget. When an end to subsidies was announced, resulting in price increases, the result was the January riots, and President Sadat canceled the increases.

IN PERSPECTIVE By Jenab Tutunji

Just how worried are the Israelis?

Is it not remarkable that while Israeli officials are raising such a hue and cry about the threat emanating to their country from "the situation in south Lebanon", Israel is in fact stirring up the situation along its northern frontier?

According to United Nations observer posts along the Israeli-Lebanese armistice line, Israeli forces have occupied six positions on the Lebanese side of the border and all four border crossing violations during the month of February were the doing of the Israelis, including 11 overflights by Israeli planes.

If the Israelis are indeed concerned about the fighting in south Lebanon, they should not have objected to the presence of what amounts to a token Arab force (admittedly Syrian) which could have effectively put an end to the fighting there.

Far from contributing to the easing of tensions in the region, the Israelis have given refuge to select armed villagers from south Lebanon who withdrew into Israel with their arms when the temporary presence of Arab peace-keeping troops in the region seemed to threaten their "rural" guns have also shelled positions inside Lebanon on several occasions.

This, coupled with the hostile reception Israel's Defence Minister Shimon Peres gave to the idea of stationing United Nations force in south Lebanon is clear indication that Israel wants to retain the unchallenged privilege to intervene in south Lebanon whenever it so pleases but does not want to accord the right to others to put an end to the fighting there. U.N. forces could come to south Lebanon with a mandate to end the fighting there. At worst, their presence could inhibit the bloodshed.

One of Israel's concerns is, of course, to prevent the Palestinian commandos from returning to that stretch of territory which the Israelis have dubbed "Fatehland". To do this, they are more than willing to keep the pot boiling in south Lebanon — a situation which elicited an eloquent but well justified cry of protest from Imam Musa Sadr, the religious leader of the mainly Shiite south.

If the Israelis are really interested on solving the problem of Palestinian commando activities, would it not be much more fitting to tackle the problem at the roots by trying to

arrive at a settlement to the Middle East problem and coming to terms with Palestinian and Arab demands at Geneva or whichever forum is chosen?

The Israelis are, on the contrary, obstructing peace talks through their excessive demands and remarkable lack of willingness to make concessions for the sake of peace. At the same time, they are preventing the return peace to Lebanon by keeping the pot boiling in the south. This, in turn, is making an overall Middle East peace settlement more difficult.

One must conclude that Israel is not serious about peace. It's consuming concern with the tactical situation along its northern border, and the solution it has opted for in dealing with that problem is indicative that considerations of peace definitely take second place, if they come in at all.

The Israeli tactic has always been to stir up trouble in any country where the Palestinian commandos are given refuge and to blurt the threat to themselves by transforming it into an internal conflict in the country concerned. The resulting human suffering, invariably disproportionate with the threat to Israel itself, represents scant if any consideration from the leaders of Israel. Israel's policy towards south Lebanon is in line with the perpetuation of Israeli occupation of Arab territories, it is not consonant with a desire for peace.

The doubly unfortunate thing is that in the words of Imam Sadr, "Israel is exploiting Lebanese and Arab differences without a word of blame from the world community." In fact, the world community seems more concerned with a long-range "peace" than that which the world community, out of concern for the security of Israel, encourage that country to seek by approaching the question of peace from a more realistic perspective?

Meanwhile, the occasional fabricated reports of fighting in south Lebanon being disseminated by Israel Radio, such as the report of rightists occupying the village of Bint Jbeil — later denied by residents of Israeli border settlements — is ominous indeed. Why is Israel blowing up the situation unless that country is planning on further and perhaps more serious intervention in the area?

Yadlin scandal spotlights other incidents of corruption among highly placed Israeli officials

TEL AVIV, March 4, (R). — A dozen former members of the Israeli financial, cultural and government establishment held in jail testify to a fact that is worrying many Israelis — an increase in the incidence of bribery, corruption and embezzlement in high places.

The spotlight turned on them with the latest sentence (five years imprisonment and a heavy fine) imposed on Asher Yadlin, a leading member of the ruling establishment, on charges of bribery and tax evasion.

The case has shocked Israelis less than three months before crucial parliamentary elections. Yadlin, suspended head of the powerful Histadrut Trade Union Federation's sick fund, was named to the post of governor of the Bank of Israel just before his detention.

Admitting accepting bribes and evading taxes, he said he had passed on some of the money to his Labour Party's campaign chest.

While the case may lose votes for Labour in the coming election, the other parties are not expected to make election-

gearing capital out of it. This is because the other groups, including the Likud centre-right opposition and the National Religious Party (NRP), have their own economic scandal.

The Yadlin case is the latest of nearly a dozen affairs involving prominent Israeli personalities facing corruption charges — many of them linked to the ruling Labour Party.

A deterioration in public morality, according to some analysts, can be traced back to the 1950s when an era of austerity produced a black market and nepotism increasingly developed.

But most of the major cases have come to the light since the Oct. 1973 war with the Arabs, which is regarded here as having been a watershed in all facets of Israeli life.

That war — in which the famous Bar-Lev line failed to hold the Egyptian onslaught destroyed many sacred cows, Israelis became more sceptical and questioning, less ready to trust even such institutions as the army, until then regarded as nearly perfect. There were repercussions in

sectors of the national economy. Today former finance leaders are among those held — either in the Ma'asiyahu prison, for men serving up to 10 years, or the Ramle jail, those serving longer terms.

One is Michael Teur, a former Director-General of Ministry of Commerce and industry and head of the multi-million Israel Corporation (IIC) at the time of his arrest. IIC was set up to attract foreign investments.

Teur is serving a 15-year sentence for fraud, bribery, illegal currency transactions, the embezzlement of three million dollars.

Yehoshua Ben-Zion, former head of the British-Palestine Bank, is serving 12 years the biggest embezzlement in Israel's history — 47 million dollars.

Avraham Tomer, once regarded as the wonder-boy of Israeli finance and who became a millionaire before he was 30, is serving 12-year term in addition, he was fined 600,000 dollars for misuse funds and currency manipulations.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6:	9:20 Wrestling
6:00 Quran	10:15 Play
6:05 Cartoons	Channel 6:
6:30 Six million dollar man	7:30 News in Hebrew
8:00 News in Arabic	7:45 Varieties
	8:30 The muppets
Channel 3:	9:10 Best sellers
7:30 Developmental programme	10:00 News in English
8:30 Arabic series	10:15 Rockford files

RADIO JORDAN

(On 856 KHZ)	14:30 Sign it again
7:00 Morning melodies	15:00 Concert hour
7:30 News	16:00 Old favourites
7:40 News reports	16:30 Easy listening
8:00 Sign off	17:00 Arab scientists
12:00 Pop session	17:30 Pop session
12:30 Catch the words	18:00 News summary
13:05 Pop session	18:05 Listener's choice
14:00 News	19:00 News
14:10 Radio magazine	19:10 News reports
	19:30 Sign off

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:	Jordan Times apologises for this omission.
Amman:	Irbid:
Hamed Al Khairy (25556)	Yarmouk
Nizam Al Nazer	Zarqa:
Irbid:	Dahal
Mtd'eb Khalaf	Tarq
Zarqa:	Taxis:
Barakat Shajrawi	Khayam (41541)
	Firas (23427)
	Mahd (22038)
	Astour (23230)
Pharmacies:	No details were available on pharmacies in Amman. The

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals:	18:40 Beirut (MEA)
7:55 Cairo (EA)	
8:40 Dubai, Abu Dhabi	
10:30 Beirut	Departures:
11:15 Deir Al Zor, Damascus (SAA)	8:00 Beirut
11:25 Rawalpindi (BA)	8:45 Beirut (MEA)
14:10 Agaba (SAA)	8:45 Cairo (EA)
14:50 Riyadh (SDI)	10:00 Larnaca, Athens
16:20 Muscat, Dubai, Bahrain (GA)	12:00 Cairo
17:10 London	12:00 Agaba (SAA)
17:15 Paris, Rome	12:25 London (BA)
17:30 Copenhagen, Frankfurt	14:45 Damascus (SAA)
17:55 Amsterdam, Brussels, Geneva	16:15 Riyadh (SDI)
18:20 Athens, Larnaca	17:10 Larnaca (GA)
18:15 Cairo	18:55 Baghdad, Dhahran
	19:00 Bahrain, Bangkok
	20:00 Kuwait
	21:00 Jeddah
	21:30 Tehran

BBC RADIO

GMT	13:45 Saudi News Requests
05:00 News; Press Review	14:30 Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise
05:15 New Ideas	15:00 Radio Newsweek
05:25 Book Choice	15:15 Symphony
05:30 The King's Singers	16:00 News; Commentary
05:45 Letter from America	16:15 Our own correspondent
06:00 News; Press Review	16:40 The Week in Wales
06:30 Sarah Ward Requests	16:45 Lucky Jim
07:00 News	17:00 News
07:15 Our own correspondent	17:09 The World of Sci-Fi
07:30 The King's Singers	17:40 Book Choice
07:45 Book Choice	17:45 Sportsweek
07:50 The Melody Makers	18:00 News
08:00 News; Reflections	18:15 Radio Newsweek
08:15 World Radio Club	18:30 My Kind of Music
08:30 The Pleasure's Yours	18:00 Radio Theatre
09:00 News; Press Review	19:45 Face of England
09:30 From the Weeklies	20:00 News; Commentary
09:45 Sports Review	20:15 Letterbox
10:15 One Piano, Four Hands	20:30 Sunday Half-Hour
10:30 Sunday Service	21:00 Theatre Call
11:00 News	21:15 Europa
11:15 Our own correspondent	21:30 Jazz Club
11:30 Theatre of the Air	22:00 News
12:30 Trio	22:09 Our own correspondent
13:00 News; Commentary	22:35 Letter from London
13:15 Letter from America	22:45 Sportsweek
13:30 World Service Short Story	23:00 World News; Commentary

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT	18:30 Show Music USA
03:00 The Breakfast Show: News to on the hour and 28 min.	19:00 News and Topical Reports
06:30 after each hour.	19:15 New Horizons
17:00 News and New Products USA	19:30 Studio One
17:15 Critics Choice	20:00 Special English, News, Words and their Stories
17:30 Issues in the News	20:15 The Concert Hall
18:00 Special English, News, Words and their Stories, Feature: People in America, News Summary.	21:00 News and New Products USA
	21:15 Critics Choice
	21:30 Issues in the News

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 7811
Civil defence rescue	" 24391-4
Fire headquarters	" 22090
First aid, fire, police	" 19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	" 36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	" 37111-3
Police headquarters	" 38141
Najdah, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	" 21111, 37777

Cultural Centres

American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 41520
British Council	" 36147-8
French Cultural Centre	" 37090
Goethe Institute	" 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre	" 46283
Amman Municipal Library	" 36111

مركز الصحافة

World Food Programme works on 15 projects in Jordan

By Lisa Gross
Special to the Jordan Times

The World Food Programme (WFP), set up to stimulate economic and social development through food aid, has been carrying out many activities in Jordan since 1963. It has and is participating in 15 development projects costing the Jordan \$45 million.

WFP has two major aims: to provide food to nutritionally deficient sectors and to pay part of the wages of workers on rural or agricultural projects, or as an incentive to encourage people to work on projects.

NEW PROJECTS

Robinson explained that the Jordanian government has asked assistance from WFP in the following projects:

A maternal, child and health programme established before the end of 1977. An average of about 14,000 children and 13,000 pregnant and nursing mothers will benefit.

WFP has also in the past offered food aid in emergency projects for war victims, displaced persons and Palestinian refugees.

In addition, WFP has participated in other agricultural projects such as soil conservation and planting of olive trees.

In conclusion, Mr. Robinson said that "WFP's contribution is a small fraction of the total food aid needed for specific projects, since Jordan, as a developing country, needs aid and can absorb it, including food."

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The primary school feeding project, to be implemented in 293 schools in Mafrqa, Tafleh and Ma'an, aims to improve the nutritional level of school children and consequently encourage school attendance and the ability to learn.

The project, Mr. Robinson stressed, will last three years starting by the end of 1977, and is worth \$4.2 million.

Both Mr. Robinson and Mr. Pronk were very pleased with their visit to Jordan, especially as it gave them the chance to become aware of progress made in WFP projects, and their contribution to social and economic development.

They praised the cooperation given by the competent Jordanian authorities -- especially the Ministry of Agriculture -- in implementing the various WFP projects.

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Mr. Robinson added that WFP has been requested to extend aid for an additional five years on other agricultural projects already in existence.

A highland development project aims to control soil erosion and ensure better water conservation in order to stabilise agricultural output at a higher level. It also aims to bring about a shift from cereal to olive and fruit tree cultivation. The project includes terracing, grading and clearing of land.

The \$11 million project covers an area from the Syrian border in the North down to Wadi Mousa in the south.

Mr. Pronk said that another operational project for which WFP is giving assistance is an afforestation and forest improvement scheme. It is being carried out mainly in the Zarqa valley and the Irbid highlands at a cost of \$4.8 million.

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A delegation from the British Trades Union Congress arrives at Amman airport Saturday for a three-day visit at the invitation of Jordan's labour union. The delegation later met with Speaker of the Upper House Bahjat Tahouni, who briefed its members on the workers' movement in Jordan. (JNA photo).

Jordan, Tunisia agree on media cooperation

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordan and Tunisia have reached an initial agreement on information cooperation, according to Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh.

Mr. Abu Odeh, who returned here from Tunis Friday evening, said that he and his Tunisian counterpart, Mustapha Masmoudi, agreed to exchange information through the national news agencies of their two countries.

He said that when the Jordanian government approves the initial agreement, Mr. Masmoudi will come to Amman to sign it.

Besides the representatives of the 15 countries composing the council, delegates attended from the United Nations and its agencies and the Organisation of African Unity.

Mr. Abu Odeh was welcomed at Amman airport on his arrival by the Under-Secretary for the Ministry of Information, Mr. Mohammad Said Abu Nawar and a number of information officials.

The agreement will include cooperation in the field of news exchange, as well as exchange of television and radio programmes. It also covers visits by journalists of the two countries.

Mr. Abu Odeh was in Tunis to attend the first non-aligned new meet, which ended Wednesday.

Mr. Abu Odeh was welcomed at Amman airport on his arrival by the Under-Secretary for the Ministry of Information, Mr. Mohammad Said Abu Nawar and a number of information officials.

Industry participates in Silver Jubilee

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordan's industrial sector will organise a number of exhibitions and processions to celebrate King Hussein's Silver Jubilee.

At a meeting chaired by the Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Dr. Hashem Dabbas, arrangements were made for the industrial sector's participation, which will include a number of exhibitions and processions by industrial companies throughout the country to highlight Jordan's industrial progress. Dr. Dabbas said.

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A commodity bearing the jubilee emblem will be produced as a symbolic appreciation of King Hussein's role in the country's progress and prosperity.

During Saturday's meeting, a number of industrial firms contributed some JD 12,000 to meet the cost of the Silver Jubilee celebrations.

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Jordanians in Bucharest safe after earthquake

AMMAN (JNA). — All Jordanian students and nationals in Bucharest are safe after an earthquake hit the Romanian capital Friday night, according to a cable from the Jordanian embassy in Bucharest sent to the Foreign Ministry Saturday morning.

However, the embassy building did suffer some cracks.

The Foreign Ministry said it was in constant contact with Jordanian embassies in other capitals hit by the earthquake so as to be sure about the safety of Jordanian nationals.

Several European cities were struck by the earthquake last night, including Moscow, Salonika, Belgrade, Istanbul and Vienna, in addition to Bucharest.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	571.0	577.0
U.S. dollar	332.0	334.0
German mark	139.4	139.8
French franc	65.8	67.1
Swiss franc	130.8	131.2
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.6	37.7
Saudi riyal	94.4	94.6
Lebanese pound	110.0	110.5
Syrian pound	82.5	82.8
Iranian dinar	946.0	950.0
Syrian pound	82.1	82.6
Kuwaiti dinar	1,158.0	1,162.0
Egyptian pound	470.0	480.0
Libyan dinar	805.0	812.0
UAE dirham	85.2	85.8

Diesels start passenger service between Amman, Damascus

AMMAN (JNA). — The Hijaz Railway has begun running diesel-electric passenger trains between Amman and Damascus.

Similar passenger trains will run between Amman and Zarqa daily.

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Minister of Transport Ali S'heimat said the railway authorities are studying the possibility of increasing the number of trains between Amman and Zarqa to eliminate rush-hour traffic congestion between the two cities.

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NATIONAL NOTES

- * AMMAN. — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Saturday sent a cable of sympathy to the Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Ceausescu after an earthquake hit Romania, causing heavy damage and casualties.
- * AMMAN. — Acting Minister of Development and Reconstruction Ghaleb Barakat Saturday discussed with retiring UNRWA Commissioner General Sir John Rennie a number of matters related to refugee affairs. Mr. Barakat thanked Sir John for his efforts during his UNRWA service.
- * AMMAN. — The Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Development and Reconstruction, Abdul Rahim Jarrar, Saturday visited refugee camps at Zizia, Schaeffer and Al Wahdat following the heavy rain and snowstorms which hit Jordan during the past two days. Mr. Jarrar said that no damage or casualties were reported in these camps.
- * AMMAN. — A delegation from the Department of Civil Aviation left here Saturday for Uruguay to negotiate the conclusion of an air transport agreement between the two countries. The delegation consists of one official from the Department of Civil Aviation and one from Alia.
- * AMMAN. — Minister of Supply Marwan Qasim Saturday issued an order limiting the price of bran to JD 30 per ton ex-warehouse. The order, which came into effect Saturday, forbids sale of any quantity of bran except by order of the Ministry of Supply.
- * AMMAN. — The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities will take part in a tourists film competition to take place in Melbourne, Australia in May. The ministry has sent "Jordan's Picture" -- about touristic and archaeological sites in various parts of the country.
- * AMMAN. — The second judo course for public security personnel opened here Saturday. The Director of Public Security Maj-Gen. Ghazi Arabiyat spoke about the importance of holding such training courses, which would enable the policeman to efficiently fulfill his duties.
- * AMMAN. — Jordanian nationals in Kuwait numbered 173,773 at the end of 1975. They included 74,549 under 10, 30,939 under 20, 24,200 under 30, 25,741 under 40, and 17,344 under 50. 66,532 of the total were working in various engineering, medical, administrative, commercial and vocational fields, the Department of Statistics stated.
- * AMMAN. — Minister of Labour Issam Aljouni Saturday left for Alexandria at the head of Jordan's delegation to the 10-day meeting of the Arab Labour Organisation starting Sunday. The delegation also includes representatives of the Ministry of Labour, the Chamber of Industry and the General Union of Workers' Associations.
- * AMMAN. — The British expert on libraries and documentation, Mr. Farber, Thursday visited the Royal Scientific Society, where he was received by its Director Dr. Albert Butros, who discussed with him documentation, library service, the development of information systems and cooperation among different departments in this field.

Fund for agricultural projects discussed

AMMAN (JNA). — Minister of Agriculture Salah Jum'a Saturday met with the Director General of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD), Dr. Mohammed Mubih Zaki.

The meeting discussed the possibility of establishing an Arab fund supervised by the organisation to finance agricultural studies and projects in the Arab World.

The meeting set up two committees to carry out a study supervised by AOAD on the feasibility of agricultural projects in the Karak and Shobak regions. The committees will also conduct a study on vegetable seed production.

The meeting was also attended by the under-secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and the regional director of AOAD in Jordan.

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What's Going On

During March and April the British Council presents the entire film series of "Civilisation", written and narrated by Sir Kenneth Clark.

Part I: "The Skin of our Teeth," and Part II: "The Great Thaw", will be shown on Monday, March 7, 6:30 p.m., at the British Council, Jabal Amman.

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Chinese gangs base hard drug route out of Amsterdam

For years, the Dutch police took a permissive attitude towards soft drugs such as marijuana. But they are now finding themselves up against a much more dangerous problem -- the international Chinese "Triad" gangs who handle opium and heroin.

AMSTERDAM (F.T.) — Amsterdam has always been something of an anomaly in Holland. Whereas the country is safe, sound, bourgeois and dull, the city is easy-going, libertine, and bohemian. It is like an errant teenager, which has never grown up and remains picturesque and civilized, an arrested adolescent sliding into middle age.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s there were the Provos, not to be confused with the Irish Provos. They were anarchists of a sort -- peaceful anarchists -- best known for riding around on white bicycles.

As a port, Amsterdam always had its sleazy side, with its sailors' bars in narrow side streets and prostitutes sitting garishly in shop windows overlooking the canals, knitting and

reading women's magazines while waiting for customers.

Towards the end of the 1960s Amsterdam became known as the hippy capital of Europe. Soft drugs like marijuana were easy to come by. There were clubs where it was smoked but which the police were not too fastidious about and seldom raided.

Now, the town has a hard drugs problem of frightening proportions. In the space of six years the number of known heroin addicts has risen from several dozen to several thousand. Amsterdam is also known as the main dropping-off point for other parts of continental Europe.

Many officials believe that the heroin addiction is the natural progression from the abundance of soft drugs which flooded Amsterdam in the 1960s. But Gerard Toorenhaar, the head of the city's Special Squad, accepts that the traffic in hard drugs has been helped on its way by the influx of Chinese, and particularly Chinese Triads or street gangs, into Amsterdam. The widely held theory is that the Chinese corner in both the Southeast Asia market and the American market were smashed at about the same time. The winding down of the American involvement in Vietnam by 1973 robbed Chinese suppliers from Hong Kong and Bangkok of a large share of the Vietnam trade, since a huge number of U.S. soldiers had come to use heroin. Many thousands of Vietnamese themselves needed and got heroin after that, at least until the communist takeover in 1975, but they were at most only half the market.

Roughly over the same period American narcotics agents finally managed to break the

fabled "French Connection". Run by Corsican gangsters and, it is said, the Mafia, this operation channelled drugs from Southeast Asia through Marseille and then to America.

The end of the French Connection also happened to coincide with greater efforts by the police in Hong Kong to crack down on the drug traffic in the British Colony. One way and another, by the beginning of the 1970s the Chinese who dealt in opium, from the border area where Burma, Laos and Thailand meet, were looking for fresh pastures.

Amsterdam with its liberalism must have seemed an obvious bridgehead into Europe. From a negligible population a few years ago, the Chinese in Amsterdam now number around 10,000, of whom 8,000 are thought to be illegal immigrants.

It only takes a visit to Amsterdam after an absence of a few years to see the effects of the influx. Restaurants with typical Chinese names are dotted around the city. But in the Zeedijk, the town's red light district close to the docks, a couple of narrow streets have been almost completely taken over by Chinese.

There is no doubt in the mind of police officials in Amsterdam that the increase in the traffic in hard drugs and the influx of the Chinese are closely linked. Figures are hard to come by, but police seized 150 kilos of heroin last year.

They work on the basis that they seize only between 10 and 15 per cent of the actual traffic, through tip-offs or sheer blunders. Not all of this is

used in Amsterdam, of course. With the easy border rules of the European Community it is relatively simple to transport drugs to other countries.

The worry is that the traffic could easily increase, at least in the short to medium term, simply because the Amsterdam authorities do not have the means to cope with the problem. With their traditional tolerance towards soft drugs, the Amsterdam authorities gave little effort towards intercepting supplies. The result was that when the Chinese invasion hit them a few years ago, there was a grand total of six men fully occupied with the drug problem.

The force has now been expanded to "several dozen", according to officials. Additionally, the Minister of Justice recently brought in a tough new law increasing the penalties for drug convictions from four to 12 years. Holland is also preparing to send its first-ever full time drugs operative as a diplomat to the Dutch embassy in Bangkok.

All this, however, is clearly not enough. The police are faced with the very considerable problem of actually penetrating the Chinese community. It is a situation where the normal rules of infiltration, tip-offs, and betrayals do not apply.

The Chinese are a very tight community in Amsterdam very few white faces are allowed into their society. Any would-be informers are quickly brought to submission with threats. There have been numer-

ous cases of beatings, up and late last year there was a spate of grisly murders with one body being found with a "Triad" sign wrapped around it.

To counter the exclusiveness of the Chinese -- and this extends to having huge white "bouncers" on clubs and some stores to make sure the curious non-Chinese passers-by do not stray inside -- officials admit that they have taken the advice of ex-Hong Kong policemen, both Chinese and European, who have offered their services.

The trouble is that since Hong Kong began its great purge on police corruption in 1972, there have been an awful lot of Hong Kong policemen who fled the colony and looked for new areas. Inevitably, some of them have taken up with their old accomplices in Amsterdam and effectively neutralised the advice given to the police there.

For the moment, the Dutch police face an uphill struggle in trying to work their way into the shut-off, tight-knit world of the Chinese and their Triads. Perhaps the one cheering factor is that although the Dutch police have been late in the day in arresting the heroin problem, other police forces in Europe, and particularly in London, are more geared up to deal with hard drugs.

There is the chance, therefore, that if the traffic cannot be broken at its head, which is in Amsterdam, it can be stopped on its tentacles and killed off by working from them inwards.



Amsterdam's canals web through Zeedijk, noted as the red light district, currently experiencing an influx of Chinese as hard drugs.

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THE Sunday Crossword

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Edited by Herb Ettenson

C. B. LINGO
By A. B. Canning

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Diagramless 17 X 17, by Jody Lett

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2. RCUQSEFGHIMU: EQ MERCEY MESSUP
JUHQCPUY EG MESUPQ FP EG KCIEK
KUGSEJUSUPQ? —By Barbara J. Rugg

3. IWRXXJOSWTLCO LXOOCJ BLIAZECO UYSEC
UTEDSWH TWO BIRDSWH YSB LYIAZ. —By Reba Dew

4. BLT TALAONET PFLWBOEB RNW LOW?
END AFLA'T DFLA O PLYY OERYLAONE
—By Steve Sanford

Last Week's Cryptograms

- Smart monkey took keys from mean yam farmer.
- One octopus would rather ride a public bus than walk a block.
- Inebriate lamented, "Oh, why did I waste the best beers of my life?"
- Mason-Dixon can be border of South, but Mason, Dixie south of border.

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هكذا صنعنا القليل

Indian election results may hang on narrow margin, Congress thinks

BOMBAY, March 5 (R). — Senior politicians in Bombay, a traditional power-base for the ruling Congress Party, agree that the outcome of the Indian general elections in two weeks time could hang on a margin of only 20 seats.

Congress analysts claim only four states — Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka — as certain to be won by the ruling party.

They concede that at least as many states — most notably Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab and Haryana — will go to the opposition.

Opposition Janata Party analysts estimate that the two si-

des are sure of only about 200 seats each with the fate of the remaining 142 (of the 542-seat Lok Sabha) being uncertain for both.

With the campaign now in its last 10 days — electioneering must end on March 14, two days before the first votes are cast — the main question here is whether the impressive charge built up by the opposition can withstand a late Congress Party assault.

The main issue in these elections has been what style of government Indians want after a year-and-a-half of political shock treatment in the form of internal emergency rule.

Without the benefit of public opinion polls of any kind, poli-

tical leaders rely only on their own observations and party reports as a guide to the intentions of the country's 320 million electors.

Opinion in Bombay, India's business and financial heart and its most cosmopolitan city, is regarded as one of the more reliable indicators of the national mood.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi showed her faith in the solidarity of the Congress Party vote here by devoting only one day to Maharashtra State, which returns 48 seats, during her plane and helicopter swing round the country.

In her sole public meeting in Bombay on Thursday night, she spoke for only 30 minutes to a crowd of well over 100,000 which had waited more than two hours for her delayed arrival.

Uganda deports white bishop for reported passport irregularity

LONDON, March 5 (R). — Dr. Brian Herd, the only white bishop in the Anglican Church of Uganda, arrived here today after being expelled from the country.

The 46-year-old bishop told reporters his deportation came as a great shock. "Yesterday morning I was given a letter signed by the Vice President (of Uganda, Gen. Mustafa Adrisi) to say I was deported and that I would go on the first plane out."

The bishop said he did not know the reason for his expulsion, but in Nairobi last night church leaders said it followed unspecified complaints made against him by his congregation. One said the Ugandan authorities had seized on a passport irregularity.

Dr. Herd was not in Uganda when the late Anglican Archbishop, Dr. Janani Luvum, and 18 bishops wrote to President Idi Amin last month alleging that Christians were being persecuted in Uganda. Though he did not sign the letter he was

linked with it, church leaders said.

Archbishop Luvum and two Ugandan cabinet ministers were killed in Kampala on Feb. 16 while on their way for interrogation over allegations that they were involved in a planned coup against the government. Uganda said they died in a car crash but church leaders alleged they were murdered.

Djibouti elections, referendum to be held simultaneously

PARIS, March 5 (R). — France and its last African territory, Djibouti, yesterday agreed elections should be held at the same time as an independence referendum in the Red Sea enclave next month, official sources said.

Representatives of the French government and Djibouti — known as the French Territory of the Afars and Issas — agreed earlier this week to stage the referendum on April 24 with a view to independence at the end of June.

Sources at the meeting, which opened on Monday, said there was general agreement at yesterday's session that elections should be held at the same time as the referendum.

But French Overseas Territories Minister, M. Olivier Stirn, told reporters: "Important technical points connected with the territory's unity remain to be discussed. We shall resume our conversations on this next week."

Difficulties are over how to ensure a fair distribution of candidates between the territory's two ethnic groups, conference sources said.

Egyptian minister expects Mideast peace talks to resume late this year

BEIRUT, March 5 (R). — Egypt's newly-appointed Information Minister, Mr. Abdul Moneim Al Sawi, said in an interview published here today that he expects the Geneva Middle East peace conference to resume in the second half of this year.

"We had greatly hoped that it would resume in the first half of the year," he said, but he explained that preliminary contacts had taken longer than expected.

Mr. Al Sawi, who was ap-

pointed in a cabinet reshuffle at the beginning of February, was speaking to the Cairo correspondent of the Beirut daily Al Belraq.

Referring to one proposal which seeks to overcome the apparent deadlock over Palestinian representation in the Geneva conference, Mr. Al Sawi said that it is for the Palestinians themselves to decide whether to send a Palestinian delegation as part of another delegation.

He explained that, "Egyptian

policy with respect to the Palestinian brothers is built on the basis that they will do for themselves the road they will follow and the demand they will raise."

"I think the view now is going in the government that after Geneva there is step other than to go to Security Council directly, place the subject in front of the council so that it can be the responsibility for it," added.

But he reiterated a recent warning by Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy that Egypt would no longer be content with mere resolutions from the Security Council.

Speaking about the riots which swept through Egypt's major cities in January in response to announced price rises, Mr. Al Sawi attributed them to an organised attempt to undermine the present regime's move towards liberalisation of the country's economy and politics.

He said he hopes that Egypt can fulfil its basic economic goals by 1980, and said the country asks nothing from oil-producing states but "understanding."

Clifford to Carter: Cypriot settlement possible this year

WASHINGTON, March 5 (R). — Former Defence Secretary Clark Clifford told President Carter yesterday that a settlement of the Cyprus dispute would be difficult but he thought it was possible this year.

Mr. Clifford who recently visited Turkey, Greece & Cyprus on behalf of Mr. Carter, gave his assessment during a meeting with the president at the White House.

A White House statement said Mr. Clifford informed the president that both Greece and Turkey desired improved relations with the United States and wanted to work with this country to overcome difficulties caused by their dispute over Cyprus.

"Mr. Clifford told the president that, while he recognised that a Cyprus settlement would be difficult, some first steps toward progress in Cyprus had been made, and a settlement in 1977 is possible," the White House said.

Mr. Clifford was assured by the leaders of the Greek and Turkish-Cypriot communities that they intended to negotiate in good faith, following their meetings recently in Vienna.

"The president and Mr. Clifford stressed the importance

to the United States of its relations with Greece, Turkey and Cyprus," the White House said.

"We share with Greece and Turkey a commitment to democracy and to the Atlantic alliance. In addition, the United States remains dedicated to promoting a lasting and just settlement for Cyprus."

U.K. football roundup

Ipswich thrash Arsenal to put wind up top boy

LONDON, March 5 (AFP). — Ipswich Town surged back into the English football league championship hunt with an impressive four-one win at Arsenal Saturday, having been beaten in their two previous games.

They stunned Arsenal with three goals in the first 15 minutes of the second half, sending the "Gunners" reeling to their sixth consecutive defeat, despite the mid-week purchase of Tottenham's Willie Young.

Nevertheless, leaders Liverpool stretched their advantage to two points by scraping home one-nil against Newcastle United at Anfield, but it was a shoddy display crowned by a missed penalty by Phil Neal six minutes from time.

Manchester City dropped in-

to third place, losing three-

to Manchester United in front of a capacity 58,000 crowd Old Trafford.

Derby county, who made headlines by trying to win their former manager Brian Clough, find themselves bottom of the first division tonight after startling wins by Sunderland and Tottenham.

Sunderland thrashed We Ham six-nil at Roker Park take their goals tally to 17, four successive home games. Before Feb. they had scored only 13 goals in the league season. Mel Holden and Gary Powell each scored twice in today's rout.

An eleventh-minute goal by Steve Heighway was sufficient to give Liverpool victory. Tottenham moved three places off the bottom by winning three-one at Norwich after trailing at half time to a goal by their former player, Jimmy Neighbour Peter Taylor equalised after 58 minutes and further goals by John Pratt and Gerry Armstrong gave "Spurs" their second away win of the season.

Second division leaders Chelsea drew two-all for their third consecutive game at home to Blackpool, enabling Bolton Wanderers to increase the promotion race pressure with an easy three-nil home defeat of Plymouth.

Aberdeen, surprisingly beaten in the Scottish Cup replay with Dundee in Midweek, hit back with a spirited showing to beat the premier league leader, Glasgow Celtic, two-nil in the Scottish League.

U.S. Senate hawks regard Carter's nominee for SALT talks "too soft with USSR"

WASHINGTON, March 5 (R). — Senate hawks yesterday began an uphill fight to try to block President Carter's nominee for the job of U.S. strategic arms negotiator, claiming he might be too soft with the Russians.

But supporters of 57-year-old Mr. Paul Warnke, a lawyer and former Pentagon official, were confident that fewer than 30 of the 100 Senators would oppose him when the vote is taken on Wednesday.

Debate began yesterday, and conservative groups mounted an all-out campaign using postcards and the telephone to try to get more Senators aligned against Mr. Warnke.

Opponents claim views on defence issues that he has expressed in the past indicate he would be too soft in negotiating a new Strategic Arms Limitation (SALT) agreement.

They feel Mr. Warnke's past espousal of unilateral U.S. arms cuts would put him at a disadvantage.

President Carter has strongly backed his decision to nominate Mr. Warnke both as the U.S. strategic arms negotiator and as director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Opposition is led by Mr. Carter's fellow Georgian, Democratic Sen. Sam Nunn. He told the Senate today "it is doubtful whether there would be anything left to negotiate in SALT II" if the U.S. had followed Mr. Warnke's advice

on production of new weapons and his advocacy of unilateral strategic reductions.

Sen. Nunn said the fundamental issue was Mr. Warnke's "refusal or inability to admit that his views had changed when testifying to the Arms Services Committee."

Sen. Nunn said the Kremlin could interpret confirmation of the appointment as a signal the Senate would be willing to endorse a Strategic Limitation Treaty containing concessions which, in fact, the Senate could not accept.

But Sen. John Sparkman, Chairman of the influential Foreign Relations Committee, which overwhelmingly endorsed Mr. Warnke, accused opponents of attacking the president and seeking to frustrate his attempts to achieve arms control.

Democratic Sen. George McGovern of South Dakota attacked what he called "hysteria over relative U.S.-Soviet power."

Public opposition to the nomination was being led by a group called the Coalition Against Unilateral Disarmament and supported by the American Conservative Union and the American Security Council.

Mr. Warnke's position as negotiator could be undercut if he fails to receive at least a two-thirds majority — the margin needed to ratify a new SALT treaty.

But Senate Democratic Leader Robert Byrd said he did not believe such a vote "matters a hill of beans."

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

In Paris today Soares begins toughest negotiations to get Portugal into EEC

PARIS, March 5 (R). — Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares arrives here tomorrow for what is likely to be the toughest stage of his European tour to canvass support for his country's admission to the European Common Market (EEC).

He will have luncheon talks with President Valery Giscard d'Estaing on Monday followed by a full working session with Prime Minister Raymond Barre.

"We are all open to Portugal joining the community, but there are many essentially economic problems to be thrashed out," a senior French official said. "A sudden flood of Portu-

guese products into the EEC may well disrupt its machinery."

Dr. Soares, a former exile in Paris, believes that the new austerity measures launched by his minority Socialist government, including a 15 per cent devaluation of the escudo, will strengthen his hand in the talks with French leaders.

The measures, aimed at reviving Portugal's faltering economy, are proof of his government's determination to do all in its power to qualify for entry into the community as a full member, the prime minister said in Lisbon this week.

The Portuguese have already won the backing of Britain,

current president of the EEC Council of Ministers, for their entry bid. They have also secured the support of other Common Market countries.

Mr. Roy Jenkins, the new EEC Commission President, is also in favour of Portugal joining the community. He has urged the French government to give an enthusiastic response to Lisbon's entry application.

The French fear that an enlargement of the EEC to include Portugal, and inevitably Spain, presents dangers both for the Iberian Peninsula and for the Common Market.

Officials here pointed out there were major problems to be solved involving Portugal's

industry, agriculture, EEC policies on labour and capital movements and Lisbon's ability to adhere to the Rome Convention governing Common Market relations with the developing countries in Africa and elsewhere.

There are voices in France which think that the addition of Portugal, Spain and Greece — all well below the community's average income level — poses a dire threat to the stability of the EEC.

Within the community, there is strong agricultural lobby, particularly vegetable and winegrowers in France and Italy, that are openly opposed to the new applicants.

France's leaders together with their market partners realise they have what Mr. Jenkins described as a "moral duty to sustain the nascent and frail democracy in Portugal" and help it through its worst economic crisis.

They hope that a satisfactory arrangement could still be worked out to integrate the Portuguese economy into that of the EEC. But the negotiations will be lengthy and tough, officials said.

Dr. Soares, who has already visited London, Dublin, Copenhagen and Rome in the first stage of his tour, leaves Paris on Tuesday for Bonn. He will then visit Strasbourg, the Hague, Luxembourg and the Common Market headquarters in Brussels before returning home on March 13.

ILO approves \$169m budget

GENEVA, March 5 (R). — The governing body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) yesterday approved a budget of \$169,074,000 for the next two years, an increase of more than \$8 million over the present budget.

The budget was approved by the 56-member executive board with little discussion despite the fact that the United States, which provides one quarter of the budget, may no longer be a member next year.

It has given notice that it will quit the 132-member ILO in November, if the organisation does not reverse what it describes as a trend towards increasing involvement in political issues.

New York's mayor seeks non-bank sources to help indebted city

NEW YORK, March 5 (R). — Mayor Abraham Beame met with aides and financial advisers today, seeking \$1 billion from sources other than New York's leading banks to help the financially-stricken city.

Mr. Beame last night flatly rejected the banks' offer to help raise the money, needed to repay short-term debts.

"The City of New York has advised the representatives of the banks that their plan is not a basis for negotiations, and that we reject it," the mayor told reporters.

Carter will fight inflation by restricting government spending

WASHINGTON, March 5 (R). — U.S. Presidential Economic Adviser Charles Schultz said yesterday the Carter administration's forthcoming anti-inflation programme would rely chiefly on policies which restricted government spending and provided an early return to a balanced budget.

Mr. Schultz told the House of Representatives Budget Committee that other aspects of the plan now being put together included monitoring the cost of federal government programmes, an "early warning system" to identify production bottlenecks and the creation of a committee of government, business and labour leaders to discuss inflation, prices and unemployment.

Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal, also testifying at

will be meeting with parties who have a joint interest with the city to continue work on a responsible and realistic alternative financing plan." He made clear that he did not consider the banks as parties interested in the city.

The mayor does not have much time to work out a plan. City Controller (Treasurer) Harrison Goldin said last night that the city might be able to pay its bills next week, but definitely could not go beyond March 14 without fresh supplies of cash.

Earlier this week, an aide to Mr. Goldin had said that Fri-

day, March 11, was the absolute deadline.

The two likely sources of ready cash — the federal government and the Municipal Union Pension Funds — have insisted that the city find the \$1 billion it needs to repay its short-term debts before they will lend the city the \$250 million it needs for next month's bills.

New York State's highest court ruled last November that the city could not hold up payments on its short-term debts.

Since then, the city has been negotiating with the banks and unions on a plan to raise the funds. The banks insist that some form of financial overseer is necessary if the city is to be able to attract new money for its bonds. The unions, and now Mr. Beame, have rejected the banks' key demand.

The nub of the banks' proposal was that a review board, to be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the New York State Senate, would have to certify that the city's budget was balanced properly before allowing it to borrow more money.

But the banks did not demand a veto over city labour contracts, as municipal unions had feared.

The unions, whose pension funds have been large city creditors, have objected to any overseer with power to dictate New York's financial arrangements. They fear this could dilute their ability to win pay rises.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

AMMAN, March 5 (R). — Iraq's Minister of Labour, Mr. Babak Al Beshdari left Baghdad for Cairo yesterday to attend the sixth session of the Arab Labour Conference starting in Alexandria on Sunday, Baghdad Radio reported. During its nine-day deliberations, the conference would debate a report by the director-general of the Arab Labour Office (ALO) as well as financial and budgetary matters, he told reporters on his departure. The conference would also discuss questions pertaining to freedom of trade unions and professional training in the Arab World, he added.

SUDAN, March 5 (R). — President Jaafar Nimeiri today opened a 227-kms. highway, built with Chinese aid, between Wadi Medani and Gedaref, south of Khartoum. The road opens for the Gedaref region Sudan's main production area for the staple crops, sorghum and sesame, between the border with Ethiopia and the Blue Nile River. Chinese experts and technicians began working on the highway in 1973 which was financed by a 30-million Sudanese pound (£60 million) loan.

STRASBOURG, France, March 5 (AFP). — Members of the European Parliament may battle over butter when the parliament of the nine-nation European Economic Community (EEC) opens its annual session here on Monday Irish Finn Bael Party members and French Gaullists plan to call for a motion of censure against the EEC Executive Commission for suspending the sale of surplus butter to Eastern European countries at bargain prices.

BUENOS AIRES, March 5 (AFP). — The Argentine government is expected to announce measures in the coming week designed to combat inflation. In the first two months of this year retail prices rose 23.7 per cent. The year-on-year rate is currently around 300 per cent. Inflation has led to a marked slow-down in consumption inside Argentina, and the dollar has never been so high on the money mart.

U.S. laboratory claims major find in search for cheap nuclear fusion

LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico, March 5 (R). — A nuclear laboratory said here yesterday it had made a major breakthrough in the search for a cheap nuclear power system which leaves virtually no atomic waste.

Scientists at the Energy Research and Development Administration laboratory said they had achieved nuclear fusion by a carbon dioxide laser process.

Present nuclear power stations use fission systems producing considerable quantities of radioactive waste. This has caused increasing concern to environmentalists in recent years.

A U.S. government agency has estimated that fusion systems reduce the waste problem by over 90 per cent.

"This may top 10 or even 20 years from the generally accepted time required for the development of a fusion reactor," the laboratory said in a statement. "This is usually placed in the next century."

Fission plants are threatened by diminishing supplies of uranium fuel. Fusion systems are considered by experts to be safer and to be less open to

theft of nuclear materials and sabotage.

Fusion is when two light atoms are joined to form a heavier one. This happens constantly in the sun and produces enormous energy.

Fission is when energy is created by splitting an atom. The Los Alamos laboratory which reported yesterday's discovery made the original atomic bomb.

"For this system the fuel used in the pellets which are bombarded by the co-2 (carbon dioxide) laser comes mainly from 'waste'," said Mr. Barbara Mulkin, spokesman for the University of California team that developed the system under contract to the federal government.

"The fuel is cheap and inexhaustible," she said.

Under the system developed here, the two-beam laser delivers sharp bursts of power lasting a billionth of a second on tiny pellets of deuterium-tritium fuel, both heavy isotopes of hydrogen.

Dr. Sidney Singer, chief of the laser system development group, said it was planned to construct a high-energy gas

laser plant by 1981. This was the date when they hoped to achieve "break-even" — the critical point at which the energy extracted from fusion reaction is equal to the energy it took to produce it.

Scientists in West Germany, Britain and the Soviet Union are also working on prospective fusion systems.

(A spokesman for the Max Planck Institute in Munich, one of West Germany's major research centres, last night expressed doubt whether the American discovery was a spectacular breakthrough. West Germany is working on an alternative "magnetic" system for achieving nuclear fusion.)

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

GENEVA, March 5 (R). — The United States and the Soviet Union confronted each other over the issue of human rights in the Soviet Union during a debate here last night in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Chief U.S. delegate Allard Lowenstein tabled a proposal that the 32-member commission send a telegram to the Soviet government requesting information on dissidents allegedly arrested in the Soviet Union. The chief Soviet delegate, 75-year-old former Deputy Foreign Minister Valerian Zorin, described the American move as "shameless" and "bringing the danger of a return to the days of the cold war."

NEW DELHI, March 5 (AFP). — Foreign ministers of the non-aligned countries' coordinating bureau will meet here from April 6 to 11, official sources said today. The meeting, the first since last August's non-aligned Colombo summit, was originally to have been held from March 23 to 26, but the dates were changed at India's request because of this month's Indian general elections.

PARIS, March 5 (AFP). — The Office of French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing confirmed that he had a telephone conversation with U.S. President Jimmy Carter yesterday. (The New York Times reported that the call concerned the pending decision on whether to permit Concorde service to New York). The French presidential spokesman declined to comment but issued a statement that the French government has drawn the attention of high American authorities to the major importance that it attaches to allowing landings by the supersonic Anglo-French airliner.

MOSCOW, March 5 (AFP). — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko appeared in public today after an absence of 43 days which informed Soviet sources said was due to suspected heart trouble. Mr. Gromyko joined Premier Alexei Kosygin and other Soviet leaders at the Bolshoi Theatre for ceremonies to mark Women's Day.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "هذه اضافة الى"